

salinity, but also interfered with the complex biological systems that depended on native flora. The Reserve system was a form of protection and it was largely through Brockway's concern that this protection was maintained and the original flora and fauna of the central Wheatbelt area is represented in the system of Nature Reserves we have today.

#### REFERENCE

- BROCKWAY, G.E. 1958. Advice to New Settlers P1. File No. 011479 F3003 53 folio 163: Believed to be partially based on W.E. Woods 1929 paper "Increase of Salt in Soils and Streams following the Destruction of Native Vegetation". *Journal of Royal Society of W.A.* Vol 10, P. 35-47.
- BROCKWAY, G.E. 1962. Tree Establishment in the Wheatbelt. ABC Talks by Brockway. File 002078 F 0819 folio 120.
- BROCKWAY, G.E. 1965. Re Portion of Reserve 18856. P2 File 010245 F2735 folios 20 & 21.

#### FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Crested Grebe on Rottnest Island** — On 8 June 1987 at 1100 hrs I recorded an immature Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) on Lighthouse Swamp. This species has not previously been recorded on Rottnest Island. A north-easterly storm two days previously may have blown it over from the mainland.

— SHIRLEY LONEY, 11/645 Hay Street, Jolimont, W.A., 6014.

**Notes on a clutch of Monitor (*Varanus caudolineatus*) eggs** — *Varanus caudolineatus* is a small arboreal monitor (up to 32 cm long) which is distributed through the western arid and semi arid regions of Western Australia (Lizards of Western Australia II. Dragons and Monitors, Storr, Smith and Johnstone). On 23 October 1986 a gravid specimen was collected (Western Australian Museum R 96679) from under bark on a fence post among mallee, *Acacia* and *Callitris* on reddish loam 17 km WNW of Wandina homestead. It was kept in a terrarium with about 10 cm of soil and fed on skinks *Hemiergis initialis* and geckos *Phyllodactylus marmoratus*.

The following observations were made:

- 12 November Oviposition apparently imminent. Weight of subject 37.0 g.
- 19 November Subject digging shallow (2-3 cm) exploratory burrows.
- 20 November Four eggs laid on surface of soil overnight. Dimensions of eggs 3.0 g, 18.3 x 11.9 mm; 3.3 g, 19.4 x 11.8 mm; 3.0 g, 18.0 x 12.0 mm; 3.1 g, 19.7 x 12.0 mm. Total weight of eggs 12.4 g.

Weight of subject after oviposition 28 g.

I buried the eggs several centimetres deep but they failed to develop.

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